



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 426
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
PHONE: (573) 751-6858
TDD: (573) 751-3969
FAX: (573) 751-6900
EMAIL: john_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us

For Immediate Release:
September 16, 2003

Contact: Jerry Dowell
(573) 751-6858

State Senator John Cauthorn, General Assembly, Restore Three Measures Vetoed By Governor

*Legislature Overrides Vetoes On Informed Consent,
Right To Carry and Civil Liability Reforms*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, and his Senate colleagues produced the necessary votes to complete overrides of three gubernatorial vetoes during last week's annual veto session.

Requiring a two-thirds vote by both the Senate and House, successful overrides are rare in Missouri, occurring just seven times in the state's history until this year.

Restored are SB 13, a bill prohibiting municipalities from suing gun manufacturers for damages incurred during the commission of a crime involving firearms; HB 156, asking women to wait 24 hours after having consulted with a doctor about an abortion before moving forward; and HB 349, allowing law abiding Missourians to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons. The trio represents the most vetoes in a single session and the most separate issues overridden under the same governor.

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“The Senate and House stood firm on these issues throughout the year,” Cauthorn said. “When our constituents tell us something, we listen, and these vetoes demonstrate our resolve to respect the wishes of those we’re elected to represent.”

Cauthorn, the original Senate manager for the informed consent and right-to-carry measures, worked throughout this year’s regular session to ensure their passage in both chambers of the Legislature.

“The informed consent measure does not limit, restrict or deny a woman’s right to make a choice, or to pursue that choice,” Cauthorn said. “The bill just establishes a one-day period in which to reflect on the information learned in talking with a doctor about risks, consequences and options before reaching a final decision on an incredibly serious medical procedure.”

For the right to carry, Cauthorn points to the U.S. Constitution.

“The people of Northeast Missouri clearly believe in the idea of allowing trained, law-abiding citizens to bear arms under the oversight of a strict permitting program,” Cauthorn said. “And more than 100 of Missouri’s 114 counties voted for the permits in 1999. This year’s program is tighter, safer and better and I believe it represents a returning of constitutional rights to the people of Missouri.”

Cauthorn was also an ardent supporter of the Senate bill protecting firearms makers from frivolous, expensive lawsuits.

“Firearms are legal products made by tax paying, job creating companies,” Cauthorn said. “You don’t see the City of St. Louis going after the Ford Motor Company when a criminal rams a Taurus through the front of a convenience store during a robbery, now you won’t see cities look to firearms manufacturers the way chronic gamblers look to casinos.”

Cauthorn made clear that the Legislature’s vetoes are not personal, rather, they reflect a Senate and House taking care of business the way business is meant to be conducted.

“We put these bills at the top of our priority list for this year’s veto session,” Cauthorn said. “The overrides are a clear instance of making sure the loud and unified voice of the many prevails over the tortuous mumblings of a single public servant in the executive branch.”